

DEAR ST. CHARLES PARISH CITIZENS.

When my administration took office on Jan. 14, 2008, we could not have envisioned the great challenges waiting to meet the new parish council and me in the coming year.

Through hurricanes and flood fights, new infrastructure projects and old parish traditions, my navigating force has been and continues to be the mission and goals we set forth in those early days.

Most parish annual reports focus on facts and figures. But this 2008-2009 special report will feature all the 'action steps' we've been taking here in parish government to accomplish the eight goals revealed over the next

10 pages.

With the help of all nine parish council members and a dedicated, knowledgeable staff, we've been able to seek innovative solutions to longstanding issues. We've also added new twists to some existing parish traditions and added a few along the way.

St. Charles Parish plays a vital role in the economic and cultural health of our entire nation. Between energy, industry, rail, truck and shipping lines and exquisite seafood, we're proving our worth every day with a flourishing workforce. Our people are St. Charles Parish's true treasure.

Thank you for helping our parish live up to its motto as we continue to bridge our communities together.

V.J. St. Pierre Jr.
Parish President



TOP ROW: Parish President V.J. St. Pierre Jr., Councilwoman-At-Large Division A Carolyn K. Schexnaydre, Councilman-At-Large Division B Terry Authement and District I Councilman Billy Raymond Sr. BOTTOM ROW: District II Councilman Shelley M. Tastet, District III Councilwoman Wendy Benedetto, District IV Councilman Paul J. Hogan PE, District V Councilman Larry Cochran, District VI Councilman Marcus Lambert and District VII Councilman Dennis Nuss.

'A GOAL WITHOUT A PLAN IS JUST A WISH' - Larry Elder

Layout by Renee A. Simpson / Photos by Renee A. Simpson, Abel Dufrene, Bob Dublan, Russell Tastet, Maurya Glaude, Corey Faucheux & Kristen Higdon / Courtesy photos from the St. Charles Herald-Guide

STORM SURGE RISK – (Background) The Willowridge subdivision of Luling experienced street flooding as a result of storm surge from Hurricane Ike in September 2008. The parish is taking steps to permit a West Bank hurricane protection levee that will meet standards set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

POSSIBLE ALIGNMENTS – (Below, top) A conceptual map shows proposed levee alignments behind Luling subdivisions south of Highway 90.

HELP FROM WASHINGTON – (Below, bottom) Grants Officer Holly Fonseca, center, and Parish President V.J. St. Pierre Jr., right, present information on St. Charles Parish's priority projects to Luke Theriot, district director for Congressman Charlie Melancon. The West Bank levee project is a target for possible federal funding.

'Expedite

THE CONSTRUCTION

OF A WEST BANK

HURRICANE PROTECTION LEVEE'

The St. Charles Parish Council in October approved contracts with two experienced, knowledgeable firms to spearhead land acquisition



for Phase II of the levee, which will protect the Mimosa, Lakewood and Willowdale areas of Luling. GCR & Associates and Burk-Kleinpeter Inc. have also worked on the nearly-complete East Bank hurricane protection levee.

The 2009 parish budget includes \$12 million for levee work in addition to \$4 million in state funds secured by state legislators. Parish officials

continue to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on levee alignment and construction, solidifying a cordial working relationship. The Corps' federal Donaldsonville-to-the-Gulf levee project, meant to protect West Bank communities between Lafourche Parish and the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, is estimated to cost billions and should begin construction in 2012. The parish wants to make sure it can receive credits for any work already completed on the West Bank hurricane protection levee.

The parish is taking stock of Phase I of the West Bank levee, which is partially constructed in the Magnolia Ridge area of Boutte. Public Works and parish officials toured the levee in 2008 to find that it is not up to current Corps standards. Parish President St. Pierre has made it a priority to construct a levee that is at or above nationally-recognized Corps standards in order to protect all West Bank citizens from tidal flooding.

Burk-Kleinpeter has also been tasked with permitting floodwall protection for Des Allemands, which is vulnerable to flooding from the bayou. Parts of Paradis, Des Allemands and Bayou Gauche are already protected by levees maintained by the Sunset Drainage District.

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, EFFICIENT SERVICES TO SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF ST. CHARLES PARISH.

'Create RESPONSIBLE ACCESSIBLE & RESPONSIVE

GOVERNMENT

VEHICLE RESPONSIBILITY -

(Below, top) The rules governing parish take-home vehicles were streamlined in 2008, resulting in fewer cars being taken home by employees.

CYBER VISION -

(Below, bottom) Vision Internet of Santa Barbara, Calif., redesigned the parish Web site based on what visitors would want to do online.

THAT HAS SOUND FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES'

The administration revised and streamlined its policy on take-home vehicles, reducing the number of cars by about 20 percent. According to the new policy, vehicles are assigned on the

basis of functional requirements of an

employee's position. The St. Charles Parish Web site received a

user-friendly overhaul in early 2009, making communication with the parish as easy as clicking a mouse. In addition to streaming council meeting videos and downloadable agendas, there are forms to report street light outages, drainage issues and other concerns. Parish departments are also now able to update their own sections. The new Web address is stcharlesparishla.gov.

Government Access Cox Cable Channel 6 upgraded its programming with frequent, informative updates on parish infrastructure projects and community events.

The parish has saved money by fixing substantial leaks in the water system and requiring contractors to dispose of construction debris using on-site dumpsters.

Parish government continues to seek funding for priority projects through federal and private grants. In 2008, grants equaled well over \$7 million.

Animal Control implemented ARC software to digitize all records at the Animal Shelter. The office continues to encourage all pet owners to microchip their animals, a service that is available at the shelter for a discounted rate. For more information on the shelter and to view Pets of the Week, log on to www.stcharlesparish-la.gov.

The parish has brought its much-needed GIS system in-house to begin providing Public Works, citizens and local companies with reliable information on utilities, land usage and elevation.





OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, EFFICIENT SERVICES TO SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF ST. CHARLES PARISH.

CULVERT REPLACEMENT -

(Background) Public Works completed an emergency repair of the culvert at Maryland Drive and the Primrose Canal, saving thousands of taxpayer dollars.

CLEARING THE WAY -

(Below, right) The Vial Canal in Hahnville is free of debris and algae after a thorough cleaning by Public Works and the Lafourche Levee Board in 2008.

WATER CLARITY -

(Below) Construction begins on a new water clarifier in New Sarpy.

Establish a

WELL-MAINTAINED FUTURE-ORIENTED &

INFRASTRUCTURE WITH EMPHASIS ON EFFECTIVE DRAINAGE

A Public Works long-range plan, completed in 2008, revealed priority projects that have directed over \$12 million in budgeting for the 2009 fiscal year. The parish has since embarked on an ambitious agenda of infrastructure projects. The plan can be downloaded at www.stcharlesparish-la.gov.



Public Works replaced crumbling culverts along the Primrose Canal in Luling at Maryland Drive and Wade Streets. The Maryland Drive culvert will be fixed permanently via conspan bridge.

Waterworks broke ground on a new water clarifier in New Sarpy. The plant will

add 6 million gallons to the current 7 million gallon daily water supply on the East Bank. Construction by M.R. Pittman Contractors is expected to take 24



months at a cost of approximately \$26 million. The St. Charles Parish council in 2008 approved \$8 million for the project, which is also being funded by bonds.

The Bonnet Carre Spillway Road enjoyed a complete resurfacing in 2008, thanks in part to funding assistance from state legislators, after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened the spillway for the ninth time in its history.

The continuing Road Maintenance Program through Public Works has patched approximately 36.5 miles of parish streets, including the replacement of concrete panels on Lakewood Drive and James Drive East.

A \$200,000 state appropriation for drainage improvements in Montz helped fund the construction of an interim levee and temporary drainage improvements at Prescott Canal and U.S. 61 to prevent the backflow of water from Lake Pontchartrain until the West Shore levee is completed.

(See INFRASTRUCTURE on page 11 for more...)

'Establish

PREDICTABLE, COMPATIBLE

LAND USES THROUGH ZONING & COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The St. Charles Parish Department of Planning and Zoning constantly evaluates land use regulations to meet the needs of St. Charles Parish. In 2008, revisions included:

and Special Permit Uses;

Providing variance waiver
 procedures for Special Exception

 Providing permitting procedures for subdivisions platted prior to Sept. 2, 1969, with substandard or no improvements;

 Amending subdivision ordinances regarding street light fixtures by changing the required light bulbs from mercury vapor to more efficient high pressure sodium bulbs;

Adopting community-wide changes in zoning classifications for the community of Ama after an extensive land use study;

Inclusion of a Special Permit to build a house on OL zoned lots that do not possess hard-surface frontage. Because there are many such lots but little or no way to pace their development, the department recommended this ordinance as a way to monitor their establishment and to ensure infrastructure is not compromised.

In 2008, three major subdivisions were approved, adding 165 lots to the real estate market. The department approved a total of 100 new residential structures, 172 additions and 104 mobile homes, as well as 23 commercial and 1 industrial building.

Code Enforcement Officers investigated hundreds of complaints, ranging from high grass to abandoned vehicles. Finalized complaints totaled 354, with 1,024 signs removed and 7,257 inspections

completed.



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING –

(Top) Members of the Tri-Parish Youth Restoration Corps help collect Christmas trees for coastal restoration projects in St. Charles Parish. About 600 trees were collected and placed in open water to build land in the LaBranche Wetlands.

COASTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – (Left, bottom) The Lake Salvador Shoreline Protection Project, Phase 3B, began construction in 2008. Funded through a federal program and managed by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 10,000 linear feet of rock breakwater will be installed to protect the shoreline.

PRESERVING RURAL CULTURE – (Background) A new comprehensive planning effort got underway in 2008 through a grant from the Center for Planning Excellence of Baton Rouge. This included the development of a citizen committee to select the consultant team from a field of 13 applicants. When complete, the plan will balance the need for smart growth with traditional land uses, such as sugar cane farming and industrial and business complexes. Public input will be a critical piece of the puzzle in completing this updated plan.

READY TO PLAY ON BOTH BANKS -

(Background) The East Bank Bridge Park received some upgrades in early 2009, including a newly resurfaced field, a new backstop and new fencing along the outfields.

'Develop A COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION

PROGRAM THAT
The youth baseball program was restructured in 2008 to include two leagues organized by skill.
The move addressed some parents' concerns that competition was unevenly

Challenger Baseball and Shooting Stars
Basketball provided recreational
opportunities for developmentally disabled
children up to age 18. Over 25 participants
played at their own comfort levels with the

assistance of recreation program 'buddies.'
Improving self-esteem and learning teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play are hallmarks of these programs. Both included four-game seasons and finale parties.

matched.

Recreation Summer Camp enjoyed a 156 percent increase in participants along with providing numerous part-time jobs at camp sites. Two additional sites were added to include Landry School, Luling Elementary, Hurst and Cammon. Fees were lowered to \$50 per threeweek session. The Summer

Food Service Program served over 8,000 lunches, as it coincided with Recreation Summer Camp locations.

The Recreation Department continues to focus on activities for seniors, including overnight trips, arts and crafts, sports and more. Senior activities sponsored along with the Council on Aging Inc. included a

Mardi Gras ball, bowling league, Senior Olympic games and fishing rodeo.

Parish parks continue to receive structural and landscaping upgrades to make them more accessible to the entire community.

They included new bleacher pads in New Sarpy, resurfaced fields at the East and West Bank Bridge Parks, new baseball and T-ball fields at Monsanto, Ama, Boutte and Killona parks and new batting cages, backstops and horseshoe pits.



PROUD MOMENT - (Center, top) A Sho

(Center, top) A Shooting Stars basketball player high-fives Morris "Mo Pete" Peterson of the New Orleans Hornets during the final game of the league's 2008 season. Peterson visited with team members and offered some words of wisdom to players,

coaches, 'buddies' and parents.



(Center, bottom) A newly painted pavilion in New Sarpy is just one of the upgrades made to recreational parks in the parish in early 2009.



AGRICULTURE ON THE MOVE – (Background) Vendors from the River Parishes and beyond sell vegetables and prepared foods at weekly farmer's markets on both sides of the river.

REASON TO CELEBRATE – (Below, top) The annual Alligator Festival sponsored by the St. Charles Parish Rotary Club brings thousands of visitors to the parish each year.

'Build a DIVERSE ECONOMY

WITH THE ABILITY TO SUSTAIN THROUGH ECONOMIC CHANGES

The German Coast Farmer's Market relocated its West Bank market to St. Charles Plaza on Highway 90 in early 2009.

Markets on both sides of the river attracted

32,000 patrons in 2008 with a total sales figure of over \$261,000. The market

provides an opportunity for local farmers and food producers to sell and market their goods.

Metal recycler Southern
Recycling announced
plans to build a
processing and import/
export terminal in Killona.
The \$127 million facility
will generate about 250
full-time jobs.

Prager, Inc., a leading manufacturer of gears and gearboxes, opened the doors to its new \$10 million facility in Riverbend Business Park. FedEx Freight announced its commitment to build a new \$10 million terminal in St. Rose's James Business

Park. And Inspectorate America announced its decision to build a 30,000 square foot petroleum testing lab in the same area. These projects will bring additional jobs

into the tri-parish region.

Monsanto began a nearly \$200 million expansion of its Luling facility, while IMTT began a \$25 million expansion of its St. Rose terminal.

Construction began on the Edible
Enterprises Food Incubator in Norco. The
project will help local food-related
entrepreneurs jump-start their endeavors
by providing them an opportunity to
inexpensively utilize a commercial-grade
USDA / FDA-approved kitchen.

The parish hosted the Louisiana Business and Technology Center's Mobile Classroom at the West Bank Bridge Park, where attendees learned about financing a small business and surviving the recession. St. Charles Parish was recognized as Mobile Classroom of the year by LBTC.

An annual performance report administered by the federal government showed the River Parishes Workforce Investment Act Program Business and Career Solutions Centers have met or exceeded set goals during the fiscal year. Of adult participants, average earnings equaled approximately \$13,000 quarterly, well above the goal of \$11,800, with more than six of the 18 areas included. Of those entering WIA programs, over 70 percent became employed.

EDUCATIONAL AWARD -

(Left, bottom)
The Louisiana
Business and
Technology
Center
recognized St.
Charles Parish
for hosting its
Mobile
Classroom of the



'Promote a parish that is

SAFE, ENVIRONMENTALLY & CONSCIOUS

PROVIDES CULTURAL AND AESTHETIC ENJOYMENTS'

The River Parishes Transit Authority unveiled a new on-demand public transit system using an initial fleet of three 12-passenger buses. The St. Charles Parish Council approved \$250,000 to assist with startup costs for the program. Riders throughout the River Parishes can also connect to public transit in Kenner to make their way into New Orleans. More than 1,000 riders utilized the service in March 2009.

The St. Charles Parish Council on Aging Inc. and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program continued a longstanding tradition of fun and informative special events for parish seniors. 2008 marked the first year for the groups' Hurricane Preparedness Conference, a free seminar to help seniors get ready for the upcoming storm season. RSVP participants served more than 143,618 volunteer hours in 2008.

Parish President V.J. St. Pierre, council members and local businesses sponsored the first-ever St. Charles
Parish Veterans Day Luncheon in 2008.
More than 400 local veterans attended the luncheon and patriotic presentation at the St. Rose American Legion Hall.

ind) More than WETLAND WATCHER PARK -

(Right, bottom) Through a grant from the State of Louisiana, St. Charles Parish intends to construct a large pavilion, hard surface access and parking, a canoe and kayak launch and a handicap accessible fishing pier near the current boat launch at Lake Pontchartrain at the Bonnet Carre Spillway. Plans got underway in 2008 with conceptual designs and the addition of a nature trail

constructed by volunteers under the leadership of Harry Hurst Middle School's Barry Guillot and his 'Wetland Watcher' student group.

NOAA National Weather Service officials recognized St. Charles Parish as a StormReady® community.

To be recognized, a community must establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center and have more than one way to communicate with the public in the event of severe weather, amongst other factors.

CHRISTMAS CHEER -

(Right) A young participant opens presents during the 2008 Toy Drive at Harry Hurst Middle. RSVP helps put on the event for needy families in the St. Charles area.





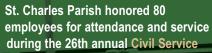
GOING GREEN -

(Background) More than 300 volunteers lined parish streets in March 2009 for St. Charles Parish's Trash Bash litter cleanup event. Also included was a household and electronic recycling drop-off and awareness celebration at the Spillway Boat Launch.

'Develop a WORKPLACE THAT ATTRACTS & RETAINS

COMMITTED, SELF-DIRECTED & CREATIVE TEAM MEMBERS

AS ITS WORKFORCE



Awards breakfast. Those with five or more years of service are recognized. J. Charles Oubre III, a senior accountant in the St. Charles Parish Finance Department, was named outstanding employee of the year. 2009 marks Oubre's 25th year of service.

Wastewater Department Foreman
Kenneth "Butch" Clay, of Luling,
received the Latter & Blum Realtors
Merit Award from the Bureau of
Governmental Research. The award
recognizes outstanding performance
and creative problem solving by public
sector employees. Wastewater Assistant
Director Sammy Accardo nominated
Clay, who was one of four recipients
chosen from a field of 28. Through his
expertise and hands-on supervision,
Clay has been able to save St. Charles
Parish taxpayers thousands of dollars,
according to Accardo.

Parish employees logged more than 28,975 hours of overtime to speed recovery after Hurricane Gustav. The Recreation Department and Department of Community Services provided services for evacuees at the parish's point-to-point shelter in Avoyelles Parish. Public Works, Recreation and Government Buildings workers placed sandbags and water tube levees to protect hundreds of homes in Luling and

Des Allemands.

The Personnel Department, in conjunction with the St. Charles Parish School System, began offering valuable GED classes to otherwise-qualified workers. Student workers attended class after hours with day classes allotted on Fridays. The initial program resulted in three new GED graduates.

The Personnel Department coordinated an effort to conduct a market-based wage, salary and benefits comparability study. Recommendations by the Archer Company were approved by the Parish Council and implemented to allow the parish to recruit qualified applicants and retain qualified employees.

Administration implemented the firstever disaster salary pay plan policy, which sets payment requirements and limits for both essential and nonessential employees during parish emergencies, such as hurricanes.

AWARD WINNER -

Wastewater
Department
Foreman Kenneth
"Butch" Clay
shows off his
Merit Award from
the Bureau of
Governmental
Research.



STAFF MEMBERS -

(Background)
Purchasing Officer Bobby
Donaldson looks over bid
documentation at his desk
on the second floor of the
St. Charles Parish
courthouse.

PARISH NAMESAKE -

St. Charles Parish is named for St. Charles Borromeo, the bishop of Milan, Italy, in the 16th Century. The parish was founded in 1807 by German settlers.

INFRASTRUCTURE

(Continued from page 5)

A \$1 million federal Hazard
Mitigation Program grant will fund
an automated bar screen cleaning
system at the Cousins Canal
Pump station in Luling, ensuring
the pump can run at optimum
levels during rain events.

Maintenance of drainage infrastructure has been a priority, with Public Works cleaning over 36 miles of drainage canal.

The parish council approved a contract with Evans-Graves for canal bank stabilization engineering on the East Bank, including one phase of Destrehan's Dunleith Canal.

Repairs to the Eastbank
Wastewater treatment plant are in
progress. The improvements will
stop the corrosive damage being
done by hydrogen sulfide gas.

One under-river water line crossing went into service in 2008 with another set for 2009. The crossings tie together water supplies on both East and West banks to provide more stability in the system.

PUMP UPGRADE -

A new 36-inch pump was installed in January 2009 at the Walker Canal pump on the East Bank to ease drainage concerns in that area.



2008 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUES (UNAUDITED)

General Fund - \$24,421,990 Source - Ad Valorem Tax, Sales Tax, Fees, Grants Budgeted - \$24,347,697

Road and Drainage - \$21,622,697 Ad Valorem, Sales Tax, Local, State and Federal Grants Budget - \$19,613,765

Recreation - \$2,997,183 Ad Valorem Tax, Grants, Fees Budget - \$2,949,497

Sewer General Obligation - \$2,991,545 Ad Valorem Tax and Interest Budget - \$2,991,545

EXPENDITURES (UNAUDITED)

General Fund - \$16.932.420

Area - General Government Buildings, Community Action, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness Budget - \$19,530,255

Road and Drainage - \$19,404,308 Roads, Drainage, Public Works Projects Budget - \$29,703,335

Recreation - \$3,044,666

Recreation Maintenance and Operation
Budget - \$3,323,619

Sewer General Obligation - \$3,019,875

Debt Service Fund Reserved for Sewer Bond Debt
Budget - \$3,020,086

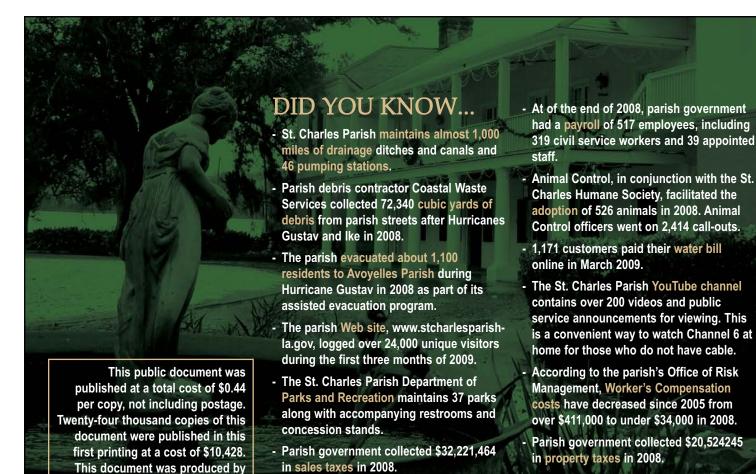
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES - PARISH DEPTS. (UNAUDITED)

District Attorney - \$1,459,714 Parish Admin. - \$9,811,862 Registrar of Voters - \$90,268 Ward Courts - \$110,230 **Elections - \$8.402** Sheriff - \$1,352,657 Legal - \$265.213 Juvenile - \$84.215 Taxation Collector - \$138,985 Motor Vehicles - \$25,411 Indirect Cost Plan - \$148,840 Drainage - \$178,893 **JAIBG - \$15,600** Coroner - \$192,392 Emergency Prep. - \$1,316,731 FEMA - \$9,190

Community Services - \$361,970 Home Program - \$268,696

Police Jury - \$ \$41,203 Farm Agent - \$72,179

FINANCIAL SUMMARY / 11







St. Charles Parish Quick Facts...

St. Charles Parish

the St. Charles Parish Office of **Public Information to inform** citizens of government affairs and promote economic development efforts. Printing funds were approved by the Parish Council in the 2009 parish operating budget.

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